GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1403
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Participation of Youth in Policy Making
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any existing programs in different Ministries whereby the youth can contribute directly to policymaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government seeks to create similar initiatives across other Ministries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)
(a) to (e) Yes Madam. The National Youth Policy, 2014 lays a lot of emphasis on actively involving the youth in the decision-making process. In fact, "Youth Engagement" is one of the key priority areas of the Policy. The Policy recommends that the Government should create a structured platform for engagement with the youth across the country. The Policy recommends that a Youth Advisory Council should be set up to obtain detailed inputs on key policy issues and engage more regularly with diverse segments of the youth. The Policy also states that the Government should also engage with representative cross-sections of youth to get inputs on specific policy issues which could be through conducting thematic workshops, putting out calls for policy notes through ICT-based channels, etc. The Policy calls upon all concerned Ministries to set up "Youth Connect" programmes as a targeted youth outreach programme. The Government has adopted youth-led development strategy. The Government firmly holds the view that the Youth should be active drivers and not just passive recipients of the development process. Different Ministries have evolved different strategies to involve youth in decision-making process. A key initiative is the MyGov.in Platform though which different Ministries/ Departments consult citizens on important governance issues. The Department of Youth Affairs has also created a Group titled "Youth for Nation-building" on MyGov.in platform through which the Department engages with the youth on various issues from time to time. The Department of Youth Affairs has also introduced a 'Neighbourhood Youth Parliament" Programme through which the youth are engaged in discussions/ debate on contemporary issues of significance to the community in general and youth in particular, to make them part of the governance process.
*****